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424(3) BEACONS FIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BEACONSFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Public Health Department,

Council Hall,

Beaconsfield, Bucks.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the area for the year 1953.

This is the seventh year in succession during which no case of diphtheria has been notified. This freedom from diphtheria is most satisfactory, but the elimination of the disease is dependent upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization in the child population. This level is secured by the immunization of not less than 75 per cent of babies before their first birthday. In Beaconsfield it is estimated that only 42.5 per cent of babies reaching the age of one year during 1953 were immunized. This decline in the rate of immunization is disturbing.

Section II of this Report, dealing with Infectious Diseases shows that during 1953 the number of cases of measles reached epidemic proportions. The numbers notified (260) did not quite constitute a record for the district ; they were equalled once previously only, in 1942 when the numbers notified were also 260. The graph for the 10-year period illustrates the biennial characteristic of epidemic measles.

Section II also refers to important changes in regard to the enteric group of communicable infectious diseases. The group has been more precisely defined to include typhoid, paratyphoid, etc. Hitherto the spread of these diseases in persons engaged in the Food Industry has been restricted to persons *suffering* from these diseases who may be prevented from *continuing* their employment. The new regulations in addition include *carriers* of these diseases, who may even be prevented from *entering* the Food and Catering Industry.

On the 2nd December, 1953, the sale of raw undesignated milk for human consumption in Beaconsfield was rendered illegal, thereby making the sale of designated milk for this purpose obligatory. This is a very desirable step in the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis from milk and as such it is to be welcomed. It should however be regarded as only one further step in the direction when *all* milk is free from *all* disease, and safe to be sold for human consumption.

The services comprised under the term environmental hygiene, such as water supplies, sewage disposal, housing and pest control, have worked adequately and safely within the Council's area, during the past year.

In conclusion, I would express my appreciation of the willing co-operation of the other Chief Officers of the Council, and more particularly Mr. Crosby, the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

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Statistics and Vital Statistics.

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Births and Deaths ; Mortality Rates, 1953.

Section II. Infectious Diseases

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases.

Diphtheria ; Immunization ; Poliomyelitis.

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New Cases and Mortality Rates, 1953.

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Section XI. Miscellaneous

Appendices ; Water Samples, etc.

STAFF

T. P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

John H. Crosby, F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres) of District	...	...	...	...	5,314
Number of inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)	...				2,325
Rateable Value of Area	...	...	...	...	£93,555
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£372

Population

The Registrar General's population figure is 8,240

Beaconsfield is situated about 25 miles west of London. It has its "old-town" whose red brick houses flank its broad High Street, and about three-quarters of a mile to the North East, is the "new-town," built around the more recent Railway Station.

Beaconsfield stands at the foot of one of the South-easterly spurs of the Chiltern Hills : its subsoil is mainly gravel.

Its proximity to London brings Beaconsfield increasingly within the influence of the metropolis. Both "the old" and "the new" towns are increasingly becoming London dormitory areas, and there is little reason to believe that this tendency will halt within the foreseeable future.

The "new town" has been very fortunate in its early planning in that its density of population is low, and it has attracted a large high-class population. Light industries have, however, infiltrated here and there, but they have been gentle in their intrusion.

BIRTHS, INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

Births

Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	13.8
Birth rate—England and Wales	...	...	...	15.5
(a) <i>Live Births</i>			<i>Males Females Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	57 52 109
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2 3 5
(b) <i>Still Births</i>			<i>Males Females Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	— 1 1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	— — —
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births	...	—	—	8.7
(c) <i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</i>	...	...	...	Nil
(d) <i>Deaths of Infants under one year of age</i>	...	...	...	2
			<i>Males Females Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	2 1 3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	— — —
(e) <i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</i>	...	...	...	Nil
			<i>Males Females Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	— — —
Illegitimate	...	...	...	— — —
Infant Mortality : All Infants per 1,000 live births				26.3
England and Wales, per 1,000 related births			...	26.8

Deaths

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	11.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.4

DEATHS

Disease

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
2. Cancer							
(a) Lung : Bronchus (3M. 2F.)	...	...	...	...	7	9	16
(b) Other : Glands (3M. 7F.)	...	...	...	...
(c) Stomach (1M.)	...	...	...	...
3. Circulatory							
(a) Intracranial lesions	...	...	...	...	2	7	9
(b) Others	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
4. Heart Disease							
(a) Coronary, angina (11M. 6F.)	...	...	...	...	18	18	36
(b) Hypertension (1M. 2F.)	...	...	...	...
(c) Other (6M. 10F.)	...	...	...	...
5. Blood diseases, Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
6. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
7. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
8. Gastritis and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
9. Prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9a. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
10. Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
11. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
12. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
13. Other ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	1	6	7
14. Motor Vehicles	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
					—	—	—
					45	48	93
					—	—	—

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM (Urban Districts only)

Populations, Births and Mortality Rates for the Year 1953.

District	Population Census, 1951	Registrar General Estimated Population Mid-1953	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births
Aylesbury ...	21,054	21,100	17.8	9.1	—	37.2	29.3	—
Beaconsfield ...	7,909	8,240	13.8	11.3	0.12	26.3	—	—
Bletchley ...	10,916	11,410	19.2	7.2	—	13.7	4.6	—
Buckingham ...	3,944	4,027	15.4	8.4	—	—	—	—
Chesham ...	11,428	11,460	13.6	10.9	0.35	—	—	—
Eton ...	3,250	4,723	15.0	5.7	—	14.1	14.1	—
High Wycombe ...	40,692	41,890	15.5	9.1	0.17	12.3	6.2	1.49
Linslade ...	3,269	3,359	14.0	10.1	—	—	—	—
Marlow ...	6,480	6,533	18.4	9.3	0.31	8.3	8.3	—
Newport Pagnell ...	4,366	4,268	11.9	30.9	—	58.8	39.2	—
Slough ...	66,439	66,950	14.2	7.7	0.09	23.1	13.7	—
Wolverton ...	13,421	13,540	12.0	12.9	—	6.2	—	—
TOTAL ...	193,168	197,500	15.1	9.4	0.10	18.8	11.1	0.33
ENGLAND & WALES	—	—	15.5	11.4	0.20	26.8	—	0.76

SECTION II

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The accompanying table gives the incidence of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year. The number of cases of measles (260) was equalled only in the year 1942. Last year's (1952) figure for measles cases notified was 28. The graph illustrates the biennial feature of epidemic measles. The other acute notifiable diseases, viz. scarlet fever, 28 cases; whooping cough, 5; erysipelas, 3; food poisoning, 1; dysentery, 1; and pneumonia, 3; are so low as to call for no comment or observation.

From the Table (page 11) it will be seen that the highest incidence of measles occurred in children from 3 to 9 years old. From time to time the high numbers of measles cases give rise to demands for the introduction of stricter quarantine measures. In a disease like measles such measures are only effective if very rigidly applied, and in present day social conditions this would be impossible.

Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases — 1953

Measles	...	...	...	260	cases
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	28	„
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5	„
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	„
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1	„
Dysentery	...	...	...	1	„
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	„
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	„

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations

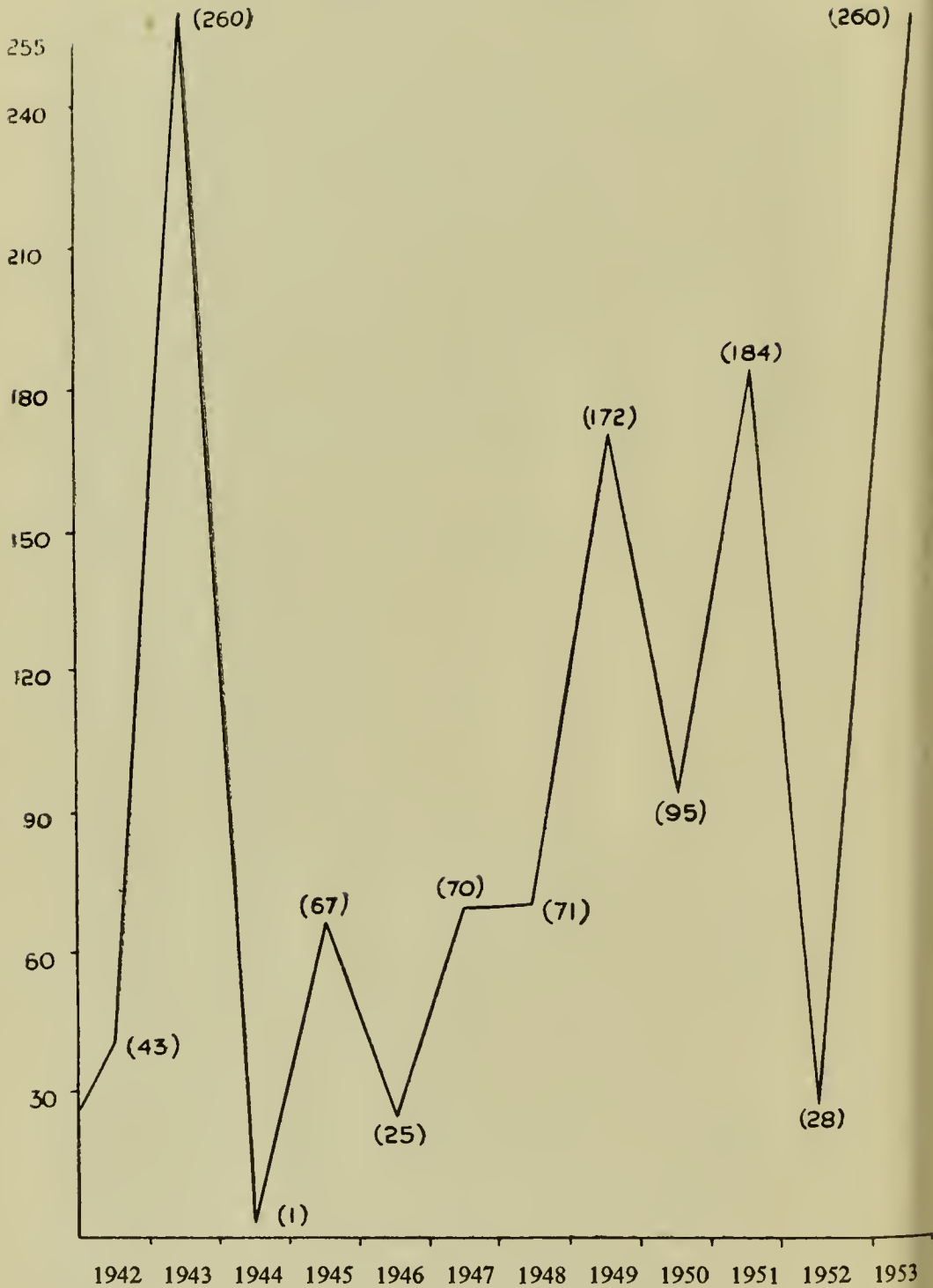
These Regulations came into operation on the 1st April, 1953. They are based upon consideration of the Report of the Catering Trade Working Party. These new Regulations go further than the 1927 Regulations hitherto in force. They define more precisely the older term "enteric fever" as typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever and other salmonella infections. Under the old regulations, steps prescribed could only be taken in relation to a person *suffering* from the disease in question, and for the purpose of preventing such a person from *continuing* to work in an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food and drink. The new Regulations make provision for dealing with a person shown to be a *carrier* of the disease; and a person in either class may be prevented, not only from *continuing* to work in an occupation connected with food and drink, but also from *entering* such an occupation.

MEASLES.

	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers notified ...	13	12	40	30	32	39	96	76	52	43	87	97	14	14	141	119
Under 1 year ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	3	—	1	3	4	—	—	2	1
1-2 years ...	2	1	11	9	4	7	18	10	10	5	9	10	8	6	17	25
3-5 years ...	6	3	15	9	17	22	37	31	27	19	48	40	2	6	37	34
6-9 years ...	5	8	10	7	11	7	27	16	15	12	22	24	4	1	79	52
10-14 years ...	—	—	3	3	—	2	6	6	—	1	2	7	—	—	2	2
15-24 years ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	6	—	3	2	4	—	—	3	1
25 years and over ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	—	2	1	8	—	1	1	4
TOTAL (All ages) ...	13	12	40	30	32	39	96	76	52	43	87	97	14	14	141	119
TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS	25		70		71		172		95		184		28		260	
YEAR ...	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	

MEASLES

Alternate Year Epidemic Nature



DIPHTHERIA

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Under</i>							<i>Total</i>
	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Primary Immunization	51	29	8	—	2	1	—	91
Re-immunization	—	—	1	1	1	91	5	99
								190

This is the seventh successive year during which no case of diphtheria has been notified to me from within the Council's area. The incidence of diphtheria in the United Kingdom as a whole, continues to fall. This trend is shown by the number of deaths during the past 50 years. In 1901 the number of deaths in the U.K. was 9,761 ; in 1940, the number was 2,466, whilst in 1953 the number was reduced to 24.

The elimination of the disease is, however, conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunization against diphtheria in the child population, and it is generally agreed that this level is assured when not less than 75 per cent of babies are immunized before their first birthday. From the year by year record of the number of immunizations carried out within the Council's area, it is estimated that only about 47 per cent of babies were immunized before their first birthday during 1953. Everyone will agree that this decline in the local immunization rate is disturbing, but it is even more so when it is realised that this local decline follows the national decline in immunization. In the United Kingdom as a whole, only 28 per cent of babies reaching the age of 1 year in 1951 were immunized, in 1952 the figure was 31 per cent, and in the first half of 1953 it was 31.5 per cent, that is, less than half the numbers considered necessary to maintain an adequate level of immunization for the elimination of the disease.

The reason for stressing this need for immunization is found in the experience of a northern city where, during the past four years, 340 children contracted diphtheria, and of the 340, 11 died. It may, of course, with reason be pointed out that roughly only 3 in a hundred cases proved fatal, which for a serious disease like diphtheria, is not sensational. Such a statement is quite beside the point. For, today, diphtheria is a preventable disease, and the significant thing is that not one of the unfortunate 11 had been immunized against diphtheria.

POLIOMYELITIS

In my Annual Report for 1952, in discussing this disease I made two suggestions : (1) that the outcome of the disease was not so generally or well understood as it might be and (2) that there was a secure basis for renewed hope of discovering an effective and safe protective vaccine against poliomyelitis.

It is probably true that more advances have been made in the understanding of poliomyelitis during the past decade than during the past half century, but its increasing incidence has provoked amongst the population an interest in the disease amounting to panic. The interest in this disease is not solely, or even mainly, because of the number of deaths caused by the disease, for these have been comparatively slight. Only 2,577 persons were killed by poliomyelitis in England and Wales in the five years from 1947 to 1951, an average of 500 per year. This modest total is overwhelmingly surpassed by other diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, peptic ulcer and violence, which are meekly accepted by the public as necessary evils. It is, however, pertinently pointed out that the panic due to poliomyelitis is related not so much to the death-rate as to the fact that it disables far more persons than it kills, that it frequently selects the school child and the young adult as its victims, and that the degree of paralysis remaining in its victims represents an almost permanent and lasting memorial of all its dangers and hazards. Death is silent and soon forgotten ; the paralytic child is a never-ending warning to those who pass by.

Reports from Australia say that injections have been given to protect against poliomyelitis on entering an epidemic area. This may have caused a wide-spread impression that there is now some effective method of active immunization against the disease. It is understood, however, that the material—gamma globulin—used, was calculated to afford passive protection for the limited period of a visit to the epidemic area. In these very special circumstances, no one will question the wisdom of taking this precaution, even though absolute proof of its efficacy does not exist. In a disease, some of whose features are rather mysterious, it is not surprising that the extensive use of gamma globulin in the United States has failed to give this proof. Nevertheless, experimental, as distinct from clinical test, is reassuring.

Active immunization presents formidable difficulties, perhaps greater than those for any other infectious disease. Nevertheless, in spite of the difficulties, it is confidently expected that a live attenuated and harmless vaccine for immunization will be produced within the next few years. Indeed, the first large-scale trial of such a vaccine is now being undertaken in America. The children are between the ages of 6 and 9 years, and the aim is to inoculate 5,000 of them. It is, however, only right to point out that until

active immunization is available to the general public, the masses will be dependent on receiving repeated small doses of infection for the acquisition of collective immunity. Indeed, even if and when we have a reliable vaccine and a co-operative public, we may still have to rely on repeated small doses of the virus from infected persons to maintain the immunity started by the vaccine.

SECTION III

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Hospital Services

There is no general hospital in Beaconsfield, but it has three Nursing Homes registered by the Bucks County Council. St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Candlemas Lane was excluded from the operation of the National Health Services Act, 1946, by the direction of the Minister of Health.

Beaconsfield is just within the area of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. It might almost be described as a fringe area—it is the most northerly of the four Bucks Local Authority areas, namely Eton Urban, Eton Rural and Slough Borough—to be included in this Region. Its boundaries flank those of the adjoining Oxford Regional Hospital Board, and Beaconsfield, in the matter of Hospital services, looks towards High Wycombe in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area and not to Slough or Windsor situated in the North West Metropolitan Hospital Region.

2. Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratory is situated at Walton Street, Oxford, and, in general, undertakes, free of charge, the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

Because it is more readily accessible, a good deal of use is also made of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton, under Colonel Walker. The Bacteriological examination of water and ice-cream samples is usually carried out at this laboratory.

3. Nursing in the Home

The following Nurse Midwives practised in the town during the years 1953 :

Miss G. Urquhart, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Miss O. Rayner, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Their address is : Nurses Homes, Candlemas Mead, Beaconsfield. Tel.: Beaconsfield 954.

These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

In addition to attending cases in their homes, the nurses give their services to the monthly Welfare Clinics held at the Old Rectory.

4. Welfare Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics to which mothers can be referred direct, are provided throughout the County. The Beaconsfield Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Old Rectory, where there are two sessions per month, viz. on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. On the former of these, a Medical Officer is in attendance when immunization against diphtheria is undertaken. Parents may have their children immunized by their own private doctors, who can be supplied free with the prophylactic on application to the Council Offices.

5. Ambulance Services

This service, provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act 1948, is for the conveyance of persons who, for medical reasons, are unable to travel by public transport.

The County Transport and Ambulance Service has been re-organized, and the Headquarters are now at 5, Buckingham Road, Aylesbury (Telephone : Aylesbury 375). In addition to Headquarters, six main stations have been established to cover the whole of the County to which application for transport should be made. The nearest main station to Beaconsfield is at High Wycombe, address : Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe (Telephone No. : 2310).

Any ambulance station can make arrangements for stretcher or sitting car cases to travel by rail. Since this provides the most comfortable and economical way of sending the majority of patients long distances, it is used wherever possible.

SECTION IV

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1953

There were 11 entries made in the Tuberculosis Register during 1953. There were five new cases, six cases including re-notifications were transferred into this area—these included three re-notifications, and two left the district. Details of the entries are as follows :

Male Female

1. New Cases (Pulmonary) = 3					
1 Male (age 20)	1	—			
2 Females (ages 29, 30)	—	2			
2. New Cases (Non-pulmonary) = 2					
2 Males (ages 62, 19)	2	—			
3. Transferred into Area = 6					
3 Males (ages 32, 19, 26)	3	—			
3 Females (ages 25, 52, 49)	—	3			
4. Transferred out of Area = 2					
2 Males (ages 35, 35)	2	—			

SECTION V

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—Article 20

Under Article 20 of the above Regulations, a Medical Officer of Health who is satisfied that any person is suffering from disease caused by the consumption of milk, or if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is so suffering, or that the milk is infected with an organism capable of causing disease in man, may serve a notice prohibiting the sale of such milk unless it has been treated in such a way as to secure to his satisfaction that it may, with safety, be sold for human consumption. A dairy farmer, on whom such notice is served, is entitled to compensation for damage or loss by reason of the notice served. Seventy-five per cent of the compensation paid by the Local Authority is recovered from the Treasury.

There are two organisms which commonly give rise to infected milk, viz. those of tuberculosis and of brucellosis in man — this latter is the organism that in cattle gives rise to “slipped calf,” abortion or a dead calf. Estimates of the prevalence of infection of milk from this source in Great Britain at the present time are complicated by the use of Strain 19 vaccine. Before Governmental measures were taken, it was shown that because of the organisms of brucella in herds, about 9.7 per cent of pregnancies in cattle were terminated abnormally (about 5.4 per cent in abortion, and

another 4.3 per cent with a dead calf). In human beings, brucellosis is not a notifiable disease, but it gives rise usually to a long protracted illness which is characterised by regular exacerbations of high temperature, showing as undulations on a chart. During the year, I received no reports of milk being infected with the organisms of brucella in Beaconsfield.

The organisms of Tuberculosis giving rise to infected milk usually affect children who more commonly than adults drink milk. In children the organisms are the cause of tubercular glands of neck, tuberculosis of bones and joints as well as meningitis. During the year I received a Report to the effect that a sample of milk from a dairy-herd in Beaconsfield was infected with the organisms of tuberculosis and after a visit to the farm, I served on the owner, who was a non-designated producer, a written Notice requiring him to so divert milk that it might be rendered safe, prior to being sold for human consumption. Concurrently the Divisional Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture undertook a clinical examination for tuberculosis of individual cows in the herd, and a bacteriological investigation for evidence of organisms of tuberculosis in samples of milk from each cow in the herd. Clinical examination of individual cows in the herd proved unconvincing for tuberculosis, but eventually after a bacteriological investigation of 44 samples of milk, the source was discovered and eliminated, and thereafter the herd was declared to be free from tuberculosis.

Experience has shown that dairy-farmers are well aware of the provisions of these Regulations, and it is most unusual nowadays to find raw infected milk sold for human consumption: more commonly it is diverted for heat-treatment to render it safe for human consumption. In this case the Council paid compensation to the dairy farmer in the amount of £46 16s. 6d., of which £35 2s. 4d. was refunded by the Central Government, being 75 per cent of the claim.

Tuberculosis Order 1938

The source of infected milk referred to above was finally traced to two cows which were dealt with under the terms of this Order by being removed from the herd and slaughtered.

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950.

Specification of Areas—Section 23

No raw milk can be regarded as safe for human consumption. The above is an example of the dangers to health that lurk in raw undesignated milk, but it is my considered view that even raw designated milk, such as Tuberculin-tested milk is not always safe for human consumption. It may not contain the organisms of tuberculosis, but it may contain the organisms of brucella, which is quite widespread in cattle in this country.

Under Section 23 of the 1950 Food and Drugs Act the Minister has powers by Order to "Specify an area," the effect of which is to render the sale of raw undesignated milk in such an area illegal, and thereby make the sale of designated milk obligatory. In such an area all milk sold by retail must be Pasteurised, Sterilised, Tuberculin-tested or Accredited Milk from one herd until September 1954. It thus becomes an offence to sell raw undesignated milk by retail in such an area. As from the 3rd December 1953 these conditions became operative in Beaconsfield under a new and further Order made by the Minister of Food.

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 to 1951

This act has been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Acts become the responsibilities of District Councils.

Section 47

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During 1953 one such case has been dealt with in this manner, but the full procedure of taking the extreme steps of applying to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction or to a single justice having jurisdiction in the place where the premises are situated in which the person in respect of whom the application is made resides, have not been used.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the past year, the Council has not been called upon to fulfil its responsibilities under this Section.

SECTION VII

HOUSING

On the 31st March 1954, the Council owned a total number of 579 units of accommodation, all of which are of a permanent nature, except 40 temporary bungalows erected in Holtspur Way during the War, as an emergency measure. Of the 539 permanent units, 224 were built prior to the 1939-45 War, and 315 have been erected since. In 1953 there were therefore 46 units of accommodation completed by the Council. This, of course, does not by any means represent the whole of the building construction during 1953, the amount of building under private licence has been estimated to be equal to that completed by the Council.

The maximum number of applicants for housing accommodation was 426 in 1947 : today the number is estimated at 162. The type of accommodation provided by the Council is varied. The inclusive rents range from 17/- per week to 29/-. The following schedule sets out the various types of accommodation provided in an attempt to meet the wide variety of housing needs.

					1952	1953
3 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses :						
Candlemas Mead	...	...	...	...	20	20
3 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses :						
Candlemas Mead	...	...	...	...	60	60
Garvin Avenue	...	...	...	...	28	28
Chesterton Green	...	...	...	...	20	20
Maxwell Road	...	...	...	...	26	26
Ronald Road	...	...	...	...	4	4
Cherry Tree Road	...	...	...	...	10	30
Shepherd's Lane	...	...	...	...	2	2
Upper Riding	...	...	...	...	—	8
4 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses :						
Garvin Avenue	...	...	...	...	4	4
Bungalows :						
Malthouse Square	...	...	...	...	6	6
Garvin Avenue	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cherry Tree Road	...	...	...	...	4	4
Orchard Road	...	...	...	...	3	3
Flats :						
Stile Meadow	...	...	...	...	24	24
Garvin Avenue	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cherry Tree Road	...	...	...	...	—	2
2 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses :						
Orchard Road	...	...	...	...	16	16
Garvin Avenue	...	...	...	...	12	12
Cherry Tree Road	...	...	...	...	16	28
Shepherd's Lane	...	...	...	...	10	10
Upper Riding	...	...	...	...	—	4
					269	315

SECTION VIII

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Two Sewage Disposal Works serve the district, viz. the Holtspur Bottom Works, which is nearly 34 acres in extent, and the Hedgerley Lane Works of about 26 acres.

At the former, owing to the considerable increase in daily flow, the Council are acquiring additional land of about $1\frac{1}{3}$ acres as a safety measure against flooding during periods of exceptional rain. At both, work of a routine maintenance nature has been undertaken and the disposal of sewage has been adequately and safely carried out.

As will be seen from the adjoining table, there are a considerable number of Cesspools within the district that require emptying.

CESSPOOLS

Number of Cesspool emptyings in district	...	...	512
Loads Disposed of in district	...	...	1,160

SECTION IX

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Council is not a Statutory Water Undertaking, but two such Undertakings serve the district, viz : The Amersham and Beaconsfield Water Company which was recently taken over by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, and the Marlow Water Company : the former serves the main body of the town and the latter Holtspur and District.

There is a piped water supply serving the whole of the district : there are no drinking water wells in use. Several samples have been taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analysis. Throughout the whole of the area the supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity ; it is not liable to have plumbosolvent action.

Water taken from :	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	Result
Station Road	Nil	Highly satisfactory
Penn Road	Nil	" "
Holtspur	Nil	" "
London Road	Nil	" "

2. Refuse Disposal and Salvage

The use of the Hedgerley Lane site as a refuse tip has now been discontinued and the new tip at Hare Hatch Lane is now in operation.

Refuse Bins emptied in district	...	...	...	141,331
Loads to shoot	...	...	...	1,421

The Salvage returns for the year 1953 are as follows : —

				<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1.	Waste Paper	...		165	7	2	0	1,169	18	2
2.	Rags and Lead	...		0	9	0	0	14	0	0
3.	Other Salvage	...		0	10	0	0	18	0	0
				166	6	2	0	£1,201	18	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

3. Abatement of Nuisances

The following are the defects which have been dealt with by means of informal action during 1953. Defective Roof Surface (3) : chimney stacks (4) : smoke and smell nuisances (3) : rubbish on roadside (2) : choked drains (3) : defective plasterwork (2) : dustbins (17) : miscellaneous (7). There were 3 outstanding Informal Notices at 31/12/52, but the work necessary to abate the nuisances was undertaken and completed during the year. Though authority for the service of a Statutory Notice was given in one case, the work was undertaken before the expiration of the time allowed.

4. Verminous Premises

During the year, 5 verminous premises were dealt with, including the disinfestation of 10 rooms, involving 15 inspections. Treatment with D.D.T. and pyrethrum powders proved effective in each case. In two instances the infestation was so severe that temporary removal elsewhere of the inhabitants who were elderly but not so gravely ill as to require hospital treatment, was necessary before the work could be undertaken.

5. Sanitary Inspector's Visits

1.	No. of houses inspected under the Public Health Acts ...	21
2.	No. of houses revisited under the Public Health Acts ...	42
3.	No. of houses inspected under the Housing Acts ...	5
4.	No. of houses re-inspected under the Housing Acts ...	5
5.	No. of houses inspected for vermin ...	7
6.	No. of rooms disinfected ...	10
7.	Smoke observations ...	6
8.	Visits in connection with drainage ...	9
9.	Visits in connection with water supply ...	6
10.	Visits to shops ...	7
11.	Visits in connection with infectious disease ...	15
12.	Visits in connection with factories ...	7
13.	Visits in connection with Public Health samples ...	11
14.	Visits in connection with defective dustbins ...	22
15.	Miscellaneous ...	15

6. Pet Animals Act, 1951

There has been no application for permission to keep a pet shop in the Council's district.

7. Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is one premises registered under the Act, the activities carried on being the manufacture of soft toys and upholstery.

8. Housing

1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year : —
 - (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for having defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 20
 - (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 30
 - (c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be so dangerous as to be unfit, or injurious to health ... 2
 - (d) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... 7
2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of a formal notice : —
 - (a) Number of infective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of *informal* action by local Authority or their Officers ... 5
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :
 - (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... 1

RODENT CONTROL

9. Prevention of Damage by Pests, 1949

The Council employs one part-time Rodent Operative who works under the supervision of the Rodent Officer.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act came into force on the 31st March, 1950. It requires the Council to submit an Annual Return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The following figures are taken from Form PDR/2 submitted for the 15-month period ending 31st March, 1954 :—

(a) Type and Estimated Total number of Premises :

1. Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	8
2. Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,426
3. Agricultural Property	...	...	...	...	...	17
4. Business and Industrial Premises	...	...	...	...	...	165
						2,616

(b) Classification of Infestations :

1. Major	...	...	...	...	...	4
2. Minor	...	...	...	...	...	147
3. Mice Only	...	...	...	...	...	7

(c) Notices Served :

1. Under Section 4 (Treatment)	...	...	...	...	8
2. Structural Works (Proofing)	...	...	...	...	6
Block Control Schemes carried out	...	...	...	...	4

10. Inspection and Supervision of Food

MEAT.

There is no centrally controlled abattoir within the District, but there are several in close proximity, viz. Gerrards Cross, High Wycombe, Chesham and Slough. During the 14 years or so of food rationing, the normal distributing centre of home-killed meat was Slough. Therefore, the various matters relating to slaughterhouses, e.g. slaughtermen's licences, regulations as to the disposal of condemned food stuff etc. do not apply within the District. Food unfit for human consumption is surrendered either by members of the public direct, or by butchers themselves. There are five butcher's shops in Beaconsfield, and they are visited periodically. The amount of condemned foodstuff surrendered is small, and during the past year, it was as follows :—

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFF.

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	3 qrs. 26 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	1 qr. 8 lbs.
Duck	...	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Various	...	...	...	...	...	2 qrs. 16 lbs.

TINNED GOODS.

10 tins Meat, amounting to	1 qr. 12 lbs. 7 oz.
2 tins Pineapple, amounting to	2 lbs.
6 tins Prunes, amount to	6 lbs.

Condemned foodstuff is collected from traders, and is disposed of by incineration. Normally, at slaughterhouses since 1953 all meat and offal unfit for human consumption was removed by contractors approved by the Ministry of Food. The material was used in the manufacture of tallow, greases, animal Feeding Meals and fertilizers, being sterilized in the process of manufacture. As from 1st August 1953, revised arrangements came into operation, whereby condemned materials from controlled slaughter-houses were offered for sale by public auction at regular intervals. More recently, in December, 1953, revised conditions of sale, incorporated clauses with a direct bearing on prevention of danger to public health. By the provisions of Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order 1947 all condemned meat and offal is stained green before delivery to buyers.

11. Food Hygiene

During the year, periodic visits have been made to Food Premises. In the main, proprietors have willingly co-operated and adopted suggestions made for the improvement of their premises. Particular attention has been paid to the handling, storage and display of food having regard to the provisions of the "Clean Food Byelaws" operative in the district.

12. Food Poisoning

There was no confirmed case of food poisoning within the District during the year.

13. Milk

As the responsibility for designated milk in this urban district rests with the County Council, that Council will also be the authority for the enforcement of the conditions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953.

The following licences were issued :

Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	2
Supplementary licence authorising use of special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1
Special Designation "Pasteurised"	1
Special Designation "T.T.Pasteurised"	2

14. Pasteurising Plant

The Bucks County Council licence the necessary plant for the pasteurization of milk. There is one such plant licensed within this District and upon receipt of a laboratory report, upon a milk sample, investigations showed that this plant was not working properly. Adjustments were made, and the plant is now working satisfactorily. Regular and frequent inspections of the plant are made.

15. Specified Area

Since the 3rd December 1953 the Beaconsfield Urban District is included as an area within an Order made by the Minister of Food. Since then it has been illegal to sell raw undesignated milk within the Council's District.

16. Ice Cream

In connection with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947, frequent visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is sold.

There are no premises registered where ice-cream is manufactured, but there are 13 registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream. Twelve samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination ; of these 1 was in Grade IV ; 3 in Grade III ; 5 in Grade II, and 3 in Grade I of the Provisional Grading Scheme.

G. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part I of the Act

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	16	Nil	Nil

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	...	...	2	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	2	Nil	Nil	2	Nil

3.—*Outwork.*

We have two notified outworkers in the district.

APPENDIX I

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. Button, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

Report on the Analysis of a sample of water received from the Beaconsfield Urban District Council, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Sample of water supplied by the Marlow and District
Water Company.

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.1
	Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	nil
Total Solids	326
Chlorine in Chlorides	13.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.010
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. at 98°F.)	0.20
Hardness, Temporary	245
Permanent	26
Total	271
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is chemically of high purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. F. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX II

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D.F.H. Button, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

Report on the Analysis of a sample of water received from the Beaconsfield Urban District Council, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Sample of water supplied by the Rickmansworth &
Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.3
	Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	nil
Total Solids	346
Chlorine in Chlorides	13.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.015
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.013
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. at 98° F.)	0.16
Hardness, Temporary	255
Permanent	30
Total	286
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is chemically of high purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. F. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

